

Special Studies and Evaluation

Office of Policy and Evaluation California Department of Education

Summary of the California Department of Education's Evaluation Plan for Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration (CSRD) Program

Evaluation Purpose and Focus

As the CSRD Program's administrative agent in California for the U.S. Department of Education, the California Department of Education (CDE) will monitor and evaluate both the processes and the results of local school district implementation of this important effort throughout the state. Because the CSRD Program is a demonstration project, CDE will focus its statewide CSRD program evaluation on the necessarily interwoven nature of appropriate implementation of the school reform models selected and improved student and school results by assessing

- The *implementation* of various comprehensive school reform models as undertaken by participating schools and districts, and
- The impact of the various reform models on student achievement and school performance at the school site, by district, and statewide

Evaluation Schedule

CDE plans that its evaluation activities will last for the three-year duration of the CSRD Program. CDE has designed its statewide CSRD evaluation effort to link to program evaluation activities in participating CSRD schools and districts. In addition, CDE intends to have its statewide evaluation complement the national evaluation of this demonstration effort to as great an extent as possible.

In the first year of the statewide CSRD program evaluation, CDE's efforts will concentrate on collecting and analyzing baseline data about each school and describing individual schools' initiation of CSRD model designs. In Years 2 and 3,

the evaluation will shift to documenting model implementation and to assessing changes occurring in the participating schools, with emphasis on both student achievement results and school performance indicators in the context of the state's new Public School Performance Accountability Program.

Evaluation Design

Following are specific questions that the evaluation will seek to answer regarding 1) CSRD model implementation in individual schools and in school districts; and, 2) student achievement and school performance results in CSRD schools and districts.

- 1. Questions and about *CSRD Model Implementation* at School Sites and in School Districts
- What are the descriptive characteristics of participating schools at the start of and throughout CSRD participation in such areas as staffing, funding sources, student demographics?
- What is the status of participating schools at the start of and throughout CSRD participation regarding such areas as curriculum and instruction, continuous staff development, parent involvement, stakeholder support, administrative practices, and previous or current reform interventions other than CSRD?
- How are participating CSRD schools initiating, implementing, and monitoring the progress of the reform models selected?
- How closely did the individual participating CSRD schools follow the original intent and format of the reform model selected?

- How have the various CSRD model developers/service providers worked with the California schools using their reform models?
- What practices or features from the reform models seem to have been effective in contributing to positive change in the participating CSRD schools and districts?
- What organizational and management practices did CSRD school districts use to support school level reform?
- To what extent has the CSRD Program served as a basis for systemic reform across the participating school districts?
- How have CSRD schools and districts leveraged their funds to ensure the reform models will be sustained after CSRD funding ceases?
- How, and to what extent, have CSRD schools and districts disseminated information about their successes?
- How have the CSRD model developers/ service providers and the CDE shared information to expedite and facilitate CSRD implementation in California schools and districts?
- 2. Questions about *Student Achievement and School Performance* Results in CSRD Schools
- What are the academic expectations for students in CSRD schools and districts? What changes in student academic expecta-tions have occurred as a result of implement-ing CSRD reform models?
- What multiple measures and grade-level standards do CSRD schools and districts use to monitor student progress and to assess student achievement?
- How has student achievement changed in participating CSRD schools and districts?
- What positive changes in school performance indicators have occurred since the inception of CSRD models in participating schools and districts?

CDE will use a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches in its statewide CSRD program evaluation. The following program monitoring and evaluation techniques will be used to collect and analyze data to achieve the evaluation's purposes:

- Statistical analyses of student achievement and school performance results per the indicators in the state's new Public School Performance Accountability Program
- School profiles
- Site Visits
- Survey Questionnaires
- In-depth Interviews

Evaluation Reports

CDE evaluation staff will prepare written evaluation reports throughout CSRD's three-year duration. CDE evaluators also expect to deliver oral briefings about the CSRD evaluation findings as requested. The intended audience for these evaluation reports includes the Superintendent of Public Instruction and CDE program staff, the State Board of Education, the Title I Committee of Practitioners, participating CSRD schools and districts, other interested school districts, interested program evaluators and researchers, and the U.S. Department of Education.

Individual to Contact About the Evaluation

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This summary was prepared by Special Studies and Evaluation (SSE), Office of Policy and Evaluation, California Department of Education. The summary and other information about SSE services and products are located on the Internet at <www.cde.ca.gov/ftpbranch/ope/sse>.